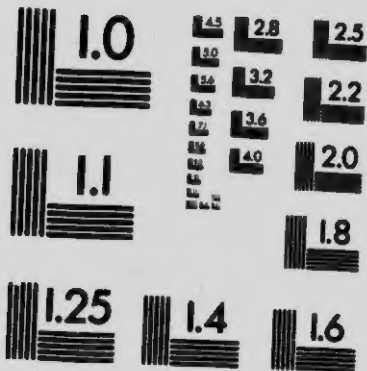


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BRITISH COLUMBIA

HER VAST RESOURCES
AND GREAT POSSIBILITIES

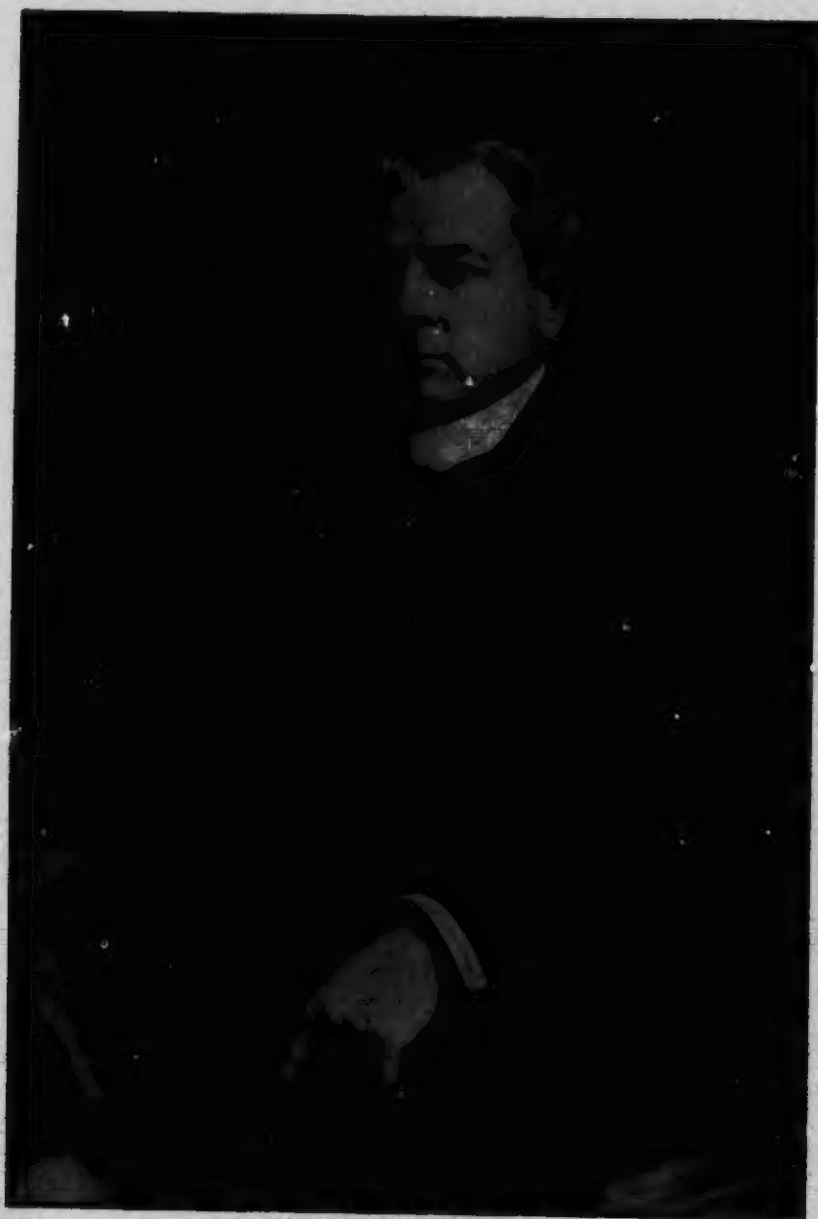
ADDRESS

by

Hon. Richard McBride
Prime Minister of the Province



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HON. RICHARD MCBRIDE
Prime Minister of the Province of British Columbia

British Columbia

HER VAST RESOURCES AND GREAT POSSIBILITIES

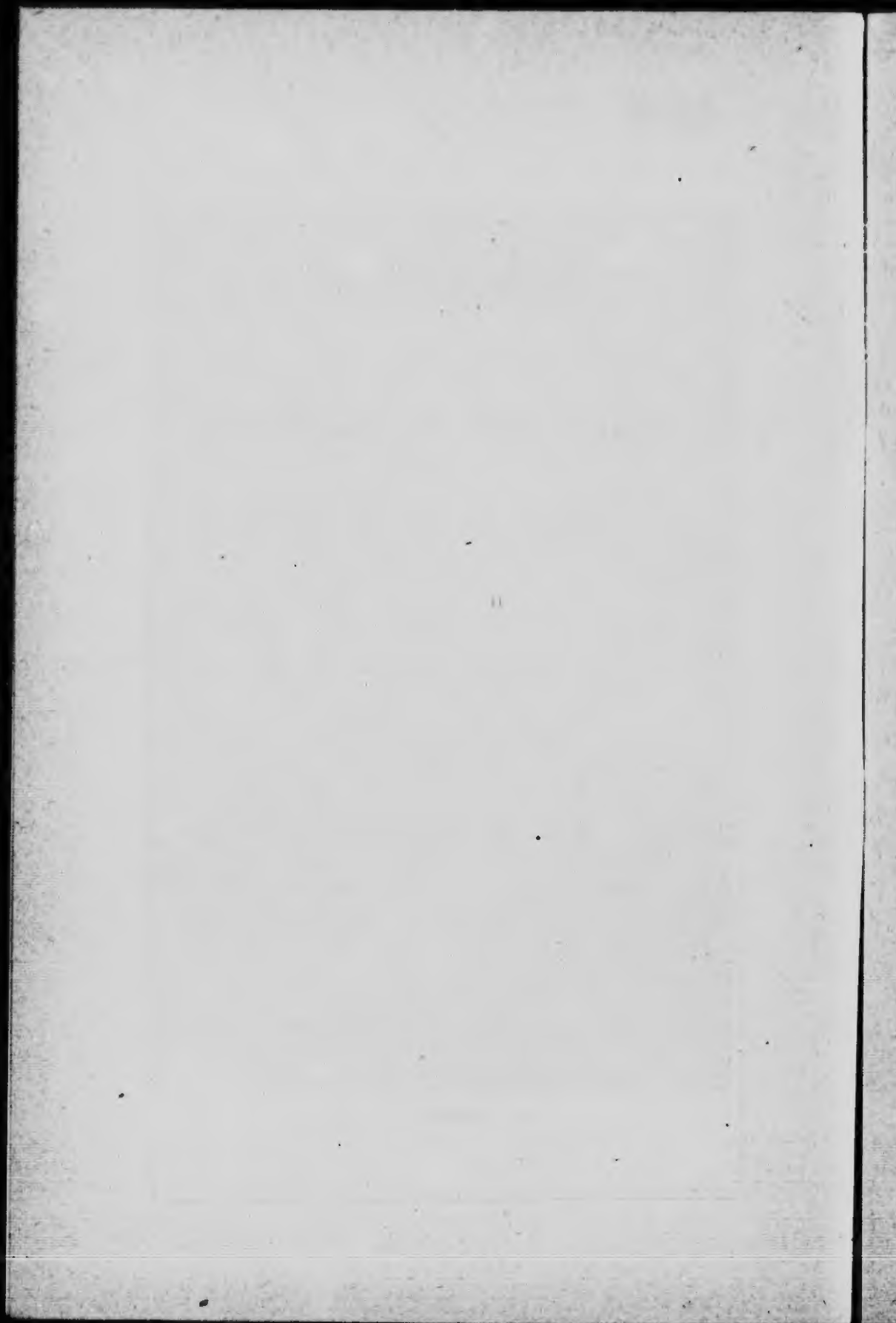
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By HON. RICHARD McBRIDE
Prime Minister
of the Province

1910

THE NEWS-ADVERTISER, VANCOUVER, B.C.





Address

By HON. RICHARD McBRIDE

*The Prime Minister
of the Province of British Columbia*

At the Annual Banquet of the Canadian Manufacturers'
Association at Vancouver, B. C., September 22nd, 1910



In response to the toast of "the Province of British Columbia," proposed by the President of the Association, Mr. W. S. S. Rowley, the Premier, Hon. Richard McBride, spoke as follows:—

"It is a great privilege to address this gathering tonight. I have always understood that the Canadian Manufacturers' Association is a very select body of some of the best that the Dominion offers in manhood and therefore Vancouver has been honored in being selected for this convention. I recall that about a year ago the wires told us that Mr. Hendry had been elected as president of the association and how much the people of this country were pleased with the news. We had long since known him as a man and an excellent member of that section of our citizens who are called the captains of industry, and we felt then that in making him their president the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association had made no mistake. (Applause.) There is no better instance of the growth of the Province of British Columbia than John Hendry. He has been known as one of our pioneers and one of the maintainers of the highest traditions of British Columbia and Canadian business manhood.

"I have heard it said that the missionary is always followed by the man of business. Then I remembered that only recently we had in our midst the ministers of the General Assembly of the Methodist Church, held in Victoria. And now we have the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

"We British Columbia Canadians," he proceeded, "feel at home wherever we go in Canada—whether it be Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, or any other province, we always feel at home. I am expressing tonight the sentiments of the members of this association, I believe, when I say that they must feel at home in British Columbia. (Applause.)

"The distance between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts is steadily diminishing with the development of transportation, and so also the distance which separates the Motherland from British Columbia. I think that only yesterday the Victoria press told of the mail being delivered in Victoria from the Old Country in a little over nine days. I can remember, and I am not a very old man, when it took thirty-nine days. The president referred in his address to Imperialism

which is back of everything we do in British Columbia. We British Columbians are good Canadians, but we are still more, intense Britishers! (Applause.) I can say to Mr. Rowley (the president) that he never more truly expressed the sentiments of the Dominion when he spoke of the imperial sentiment which is evident throughout the Dominion. (Applause.)

"Now," he continued, "British Columbia is not a hackneyed expression, and I am pleased to see that no one here hesitates to tell of the advantages which British Columbia offers to the manufacturer. It is a rather difficult and exacting duty to speak to manufacturers on any subject, as I understand that they are as exacting in their recreation as in business. However, I shall do my best to explain what British Columbia offers the manufacturer.

"No province of the Dominion possesses in itself such a wealth and diversity of natural resources as British Columbia, and all in the initial stages of development: (1) Our fisheries account for over 30 per cent. of the total catch of Canada; (2) our mines have produced since their inception \$347,800,000, and 300,000 square miles of mineralized ground are not yet prospected; (3) our timber brings in over \$12,000,000 a year, and (4) our agricultural and fruit lands, hardly scratched, over \$8,000,000.

"While our population is still small, our accomplishments are large. We have created a trade totalling close to \$50,000,000 annually; established manufactures and industries yielding over eighty million dollars a year—and, remember, we are still at the beginning of things.

"British Columbia, with its area of 395,000 square miles, is the largest province in the Dominion, and could contain within its borders Ontario, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, with some 10,000 square miles to spare. Her coast line, from Juan de Fuca Straits to the head of Portland Canal, measures 7,000 miles, while an estimate of the extent of inland navigable waters totals 2,500 miles.

FISHERIES.

"The fisheries of our coast employ about 12,000 men. British Columbia stands first in the production of salmon; nine-tenths of her annual output may be credited to that fish, while her catch of halibut is ten times more than that of the Atlantic. In Nanaimo harbor, 22,500 tons of herring (45,000,000 pounds) were caught last year. Deep-sea fishing for cod and halibut, oyster culture, the manufacture of fish oils and fertilizers, the canning of crabs, clams and other shell fish, the exportation of fresh fish in cold storage, and the preserving of sardines, anchovies and other small fry, are industries which might well attract the attention of capital. The European countries bordering the North Atlantic give employment to over a million fisher folk. Experiments have established the fact that half an hour's trawling on the Atlantic coast of Canada will bring up more fish than can be captured in six hours in the North Sea fishing grounds, and, as it is conceded by the best authorities on the subject that British Columbia's fisheries are immensely more productive than those of the Atlantic, it follows that our fisheries would support a million people without taxing them to an appreciable extent.

TIMBER.

"The timber of Vancouver Island and the coast is remarkable for its size and its unsurpassed quality as lumber. The Douglas fir grows to a height of 300 feet—the average tree, most prized by the lumberman, averaging 125 to 150 feet. Cedar, pine and hemlock also attain larger growth than in Eastern Canada. In the interior the size of the trees is smaller, but they make excellent lumber, suited to every purpose. Roughly, British Columbia's forest and woodland estate consists of 182,000,000 acres, but figures are not now available to show what quantity might be classed as merchantable timber. Various estimates have been made as to the available quantity of commercial timber, and these differ materially. The less optimistic of our timber experts, however, agree that about one-fifth—or 36,000,000 acres—of the whole may be so classed; which would yield, on the extremely modest basis of 10,000 feet to the acre, three hundred and sixty billion feet annually for 100 years, or at the present rate of cutting, for four centuries.

"There are thousands of miles of pulp and paper-making woods which are still practically undisturbed. Enough has been done to convince those interested that the manufacture of paper-pulp and paper is destined to become one of our leading and most profitable industries. The paper makers of the United States are clamoring for raw material, and, so far as British Columbia is concerned, they can have it on one condition, and that is that they shall set up their plants within our borders and manufacture the raw product into paper. The province will supply the wood and the water-power to grind it, but it must be exported in its perfected form.

AGRICULTURE.

"It is difficult to estimate with exactness the extent of our agricultural lands. Roughly speaking, it is estimated forty-six million acres of arable and pasture land are in what may be called the Southern Belt. A large portion of this is covered with timber too valuable to sacrifice even in the promotion of agriculture. This does not include the most southerly district of Southern British Columbia, where there are about three million acres occupied and immediately available for cultivation.

"In the Central Belt, lying between the 52nd and 56th parallels, the country to be served by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, the arable and pasture land is estimated at eleven million acres; while the Northern Belt, between the 56th and 60th parallels, including the great plateaux of Cariboo, Cassiar and Omineca, may be credited with at least an equal quantity of cultivatable land. Dr. G. M. Dawson, whose estimates have invariably been found correct, considered six million four hundred thousand acres of that country fitted to wheat growing, and as it is in the same latitude as Vermillion, Alberta, where the best wheat in the world is grown, we may accept his opinion without question.

"The progress made so far in agriculture has been principally confined to the Southern Belt. The advancement made, particularly in fruit growing, is wonderful. Ten years ago the total orchard area was 7,460 acres. Today the fruit acreage has increased to over 100,000 acres. The quality of our fruit is unsurpassed. Year after year it has taken the gold medal at the Royal Horticultural Society's Exhibition in London, and the highest awards at other exhibitions in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. At the International Apple Shows held in

Spokane, British Columbia apples have been awarded numerous prizes—in one instance taking 13 prizes out of 14 entries—in competition with twenty-two States. Fruit culture is mainly confined to the southern districts, but apples, pears, plums, cherries and small fruits are grown as far north as Hazelton, on the Skeena River, and it is expected that experiment will show that successful orchards may be raised in many parts of the Central Belt.

"A striking proof of the great importance of the fruit industry is the enterprise of Vancouver in instituting the first Canadian National Apple Show, which opens in this city October 31st, which Maxwell Smith has worked so strenuously to secure for Vancouver, and at which there will be exhibits from all parts of the continent.

"Dairying is another great industry, still in its initial stages. The number of creameries has doubled in ten years, and the production of butter has increased 2,500 per cent., yet we imported \$3,000,000 worth of butter and cheese last year. There is no country under the sun better suited to dairying and this branch of agriculture affords opportunity to thousands, and the same remark applies to poultry raising. We import over \$2,000,000 worth of poultry and eggs annually, and the prices on the local market place them in the class of luxuries. It is interesting to note that the value of poultry and eggs annually produced in the United States exceeds that of lumber, coal and iron.

"We have easily ten times as much agricultural land as Japan, with her fifty million producing over 22,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1909; double that of Sweden, with over 5,000,000 people, over half of whom are engaged in agriculture and producing over 6,000,000 bushels of wheat in 1908—and the greater part of Sweden lies north of the sixtieth parallel—north of the northern boundary of British Columbia.

MINERALS

"The mineral output of the province for 1909 was \$24,443,025. The gross output of coal in long tons, 2,400,600.

"The greatest coal fields of British Columbia, or of Canada, is the Rocky Mountain coal field, of which 80 per cent. is in British Columbia, and 20 per cent. in Alberta. The present British Columbia (1909) gross output of coal for the whole province is 2,400,600 tons, and at this rate of production East Kootenay coal fields can keep up this supply for 15,000 years.

VANCOUVER ISLAND COAL FIELDS.

"Dr. Henry S. Poole, of Nova Scotia, in the employ of the geological survey, says in his report, made in 1903, as to coal still remaining in the ground: 'The quantity of coal exceeding two feet in thickness within a vertical depth of 4,000 feet, an estimate of 600,000,000 tons would seem conservative.' This does not include other promising fields in East Kootenay, Northern British Columbia and Peace River.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN COAL FIELDS.

"The Rocky Mountain coal fields, lying on either flank of the main range of the Rocky Mountains, respectively in the ~~provinces~~ of British Columbia and Alberta, are undoubtedly the most ~~valuable~~ deposits in Canada, and, what is

more important from a commercial point of view, are the only large coal fields of first class coal at present known on the Pacific slope between Alaska and Mexico.

"While it has been a matter of common knowledge in British Columbia that these deposits were large, it is questioned if more than a few people recognized their wonderful extent or the enormous influence which they must have on the future of the country. What this influence must be can best be demonstrated by the illustration of what the coal deposits of Pennsylvania have done for that State—they have made it probably the greatest manufacturing State of the Union—and the condition of Western Canada today is that of the Eastern United States fifty years ago, except that we may look forward to a more rapid development due to the more general progress of the rest of the continent, and the improved transportation and other facilities now available.

"It seems, therefore, that Eastern British Columbia is destined to be, from the possession of its coal fields alone, the Pennsylvania of the Pacific slope, and that at no distant date.

"The estimated coal in the Rocky Mountain coal fields is no less than 44,130,000,000 tons, of which some 36,000,000,000, or 81 per cent. of the whole, is in British Columbia, practically all of it available from the valley of the Elk

OTHER MINERALS.

"The tonnage of ore, exclusive of coal, was 2,057,713 tons in 1909.

"The value of the output of the lode mines for the year was \$13,791,141, practically all of which is smelted in the province.

"The value of the output of our placer mines is estimated at \$477,000.

"The output of the smelters of the province is approximately \$13,800,000, and it is worthy of note that one of the smelters in the tonnage of ore treated is among the first three largest smelters in the world.

"It must be borne in mind that the country is not yet nearly prospected, and I might mention the recent discoveries on the Portland Canal—where there are already some 1,500 people at Stewart, and where Mackenzie & Mann are building a railway and propose to treat the ore there.

GAME.

"No country peopled by white men surpasses British Columbia in opportunity for the hunter and angler. Our vast solitudes are the home of a great variety of wild animals and birds, and our coast and inland waters teem with fish. The grizzly and several other species of bears, elk, moose, caribou and smaller deer of many kinds, panthers, wolves, mountain sheep, goats, lynx, wild cat, foxes, and many fur-bearing animals, are plentiful, and water fowl and game birds are numerous and widely distributed. In the southern districts are pheasants, black game and capercaillie, imported and climetized, while partridge, grouse and prairie chicken are indigenous and are found in all parts of the province. The game fishes include salmon, steelhead and several species of trout, charr, sea bass and black bass. The fame of the province as a hunting ground has spread abroad, and every year sees an increasing number of big game hunters from Europe, who

are invariably delighted with their success in securing trophies. At the recent sporting exhibition in Vienna the display of British Columbia game, in charge of Mr. Warburton Pike, was one of the chief attractions, securing several first prizes.

"Some of the states of the union to the south of us obtain large revenues from exploitation of their big game. The state of Maine boasts of the revenue from her protected big game and you could put that state in the smallest county of British Columbia! (Applause.)

CLIMATE.

"One of British Columbia's greatest assets is her climate. Our harbors are open the year round and there is no ice to contend with in navigation. The coast climate is exceedingly mild, while as for our northern country, let me say that the Russian provinces of Tobolsk, which lies north of the 54th parallel, supports a population of 1,500,000 and in the census year of 1900 produced over 21,000,000 bushels of grain besides large quantities of dairy produce and live stock."

A Voice: "What about Quebec?"

The Premier: "My friend, Quebec has a good climate and so have we—only more of it! (Laughter and cheers.)

WATER POWER.

"This province is peculiarly adapted to the comparatively cheap utilization of the power of falling water. It is safe to say that on Vancouver Island 500,000 horsepower may be cheaply developed.

"Within one hundred and fifty miles of the city of Vancouver it is estimated that hydro-electric development may deliver five hundred thousand horsepower should that amount be required. At Adams River, above Kamloops, is another magnificent power site. On the Kootenay River, near Nelson, is a hydro-electric power plant at Bonington Falls, installed at a cost of over \$350,000, which is, I believe, prepared to furnish power at a maximum of \$30 per horsepower per annum for manufacturing purposes. The Pead d'Oreille River, south of Nelson, is also capable of developing some fifty thousand horsepower at moderate cost. On the west flank of the Rockies are many smaller power possibilities. On Willow River, within twenty miles of Fort George, a company is even now undertaking the development up to some twenty thousand horsepower as required. Near Prince Rupert the Katchka River may be made to furnish about ten thousand horsepower. At the points already specified we have nearly one million horsepower, concerning which we have some definite information or partial development. The full extent of the water power of the province will enormously exceed this, though at present it is impossible to make an accurate estimate.

TRANSPORTATION.

"To secure population we must have convenient and cheap transportation, and this is being supplied as fast as possible. The Grand Trunk Pacific will provide a great central trunk line, with branches extending north and south, while the Canadian Northern Railway will serve a large extent of territory in the valleys of the Upper Fraser and Thompson Rivers and down through the fruit-growing districts of Kamloops and Nicola.

"The railway mileage today approximates 1,700 miles and there is under construction over 400 miles of railway, while the completion of the Kettle Valley, C. N. R. and C. T. P. main lines will add 1,300 miles to the railways. Anticipating the advent of railways, the Government is pushing the construction of wagon roads, trails and bridges. Already about 9,000 miles of roads and 4,500 miles of trails have been built, a total of 14,000 miles, and the value of bridges may be placed between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000.

MANUFACTURES.

"In manufactures the province produces about \$30,000,000 annually. The operation of the Tehuanispec Railway has already permitted some fifty manufacturing firms in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to do business with British Columbia, and the Panama Canal will give still further relief, but the true solution of the problem is the establishment of factories here from which the prairies can be supplied at half or less than the present freight rates. We have the raw materials and the power to run the machinery, why not utilize them?

TRADES.

"Trade returns for 1909 credit British Columbia with a total trade of \$43,000,000, made up of \$21,000,000 of imports and \$22,000,000 exports. The bank clearings for 1909 aggregated over \$358,000,000. As an instance of the rapid growth of our business, the bank clearings for the first six months of 1910 exceeded those of the same period of 1909 by \$101,000,000—the figures being: First six months of 1910, \$249,388,888; first six months of 1909, \$147,718,030.

"Our merchant marine is steadily increasing. The navigation returns for 1909 show that 5,000 sea-going vessels sailed from British Columbia ports in that year, while there were 20,000 vessels engaged in the coasting trade, representing in all over 9,000,000 tons of shipping."

The assembly rose to its feet in enthusiasm when the Premier said: "We hear talk of a certain nation wanting to come into Canada for our raw materials. Her manufacturers must have them. Well, they can come and get their raw materials if they want; to, but," raising his hand to lend emphasis to his remarks, "on one condition, and one only. And that one condition is that they must build their mills here and manufacture from their raw materials in this province of British Columbia!" For two minutes enthusiasm reigned, some of the members breaking into song.

THE FUTURE.

"What does the future hold for us? It is a question that you must pardon us in answering if we seem too optimistic. I feel satisfied, however, that we have already sufficient evidence in the past to say that we can expect in the future to count the population of British Columbia, not by thousands as we do now, but by millions. (Applause) British Columbia needs no vain boasting to reassure herself!" (Applause.)

"We out here," he concluded, "say that while you come to British Columbia from Ontario and Quebec, we western Canadians are just as proud of Toronto and Quebec, and with as much reason, as yourselves are! (Applause.) When we say this we mean to invite you to feel the same toward British Columbia—to feel that when we speak of our mines and timber and our agricultural and marine resources, they are every whit as much your inheritance as they are ours. He would be recreant in his duty who returns to the east feeling other than that the west is as much his as ours. We are all loyal Canadians and with you easterners join in the strongest support in one king, one flag and one empire!" (Loud and continued applause.)



